Cancellation of project of a Hindi News Magazine by Doordarshan

1595. SHRI KAPIL VERMA :
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
KUMARI ALIA :

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Doordarshan has cancelled a project of a Hindi news magazine even after paying an advance; if so, what were the reasons therefor, who were the producers and how much advance money was paid: and

(b) whether Doordarshan has decided to curtail the Current Affairs programme; if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA) : (a) It has been, on reconsideration found more appropriate to produce Hindi News Magazine as an in-house production of Doordarshan. The offers earlier made to three outside producers for production of this programme were accordingly cancelled. Two of these outside producers had been advanced a total amount of Rs. 4.80 lakhs.

(b) No, Sir. The frequency of telecast of the current affairs programme per week has, in fact, been doubled.

Change in Nepal's Policy towards India

1596. SHRI KAPIL VERMA :
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
KUMARI ALIA :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is precisely the change in attitude of the new Nepal Government on its policy towards India and on key issues that had in the past created differences between the two countries;

(b) the time by when the next round of official talks will take place and with what agenda; and

(c) whether any basis has been accepted by both countries for a comprehensive treaty; if so, what are the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) The new Government of Nepal has laid special stress on restoring the traditional warmth and friendship of Indo-Nepal relations and improving them further.

(b) and (c) The timing and other details for the next round of official talks will be decided soon. All issues of mutual interest are expected to be discussed during the talks with a view to bringing about a comprehensive settlement of all outstanding problems between the two countries.

Widening of highways in Rajasthan

1597. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) what is the present number of highways in Rajasthan where widening of roads have been undertaken so far :

(b) what is the present stage of widening of Highway from Jaipur to Delhi and by when the work is likely to be completed; and

(c) if the progress of widening is slow what are the reasons there for?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHANAN) : (a) Out of seven